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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

September 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

6.

C/ADD

7.

8.

C/HED

9.

10.

C/Computer Operations

11.

12.

C/FED

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy

FBIS-4816-88
11 October 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- September 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. At the end of the month, the bureau arranged to turn over primary coverage of the main Tehran TV evening newscast to BBC (initiated 3 October). The bureau monitors the cast from satellite and feeds the audio to the BBC live by telephone. Nicosia has retained coverage of the video portion of the cast, which it has been videotaping and sending to London for Internet relay for the past year. The bureau also resumed coverage of Iranian publications following a temporary halt in July. Three Tehran dailies and one monthly are delivered twice-weekly by an air courier service and arrive 5 to 9 days after publication. Items that cannot be processed on a timely basis are transmitted by facsimile to PMU or to Headquarters for processing.

2. With the Nagorno-Karabak conflict in the southern USSR heating up yet again, the bureau added temporary coverage of several Yerevan casts in Armenian and Baku casts in Azeri. Other Yerevan and Baku casts were fed to the BBC by telephone for several days, including Baku in Russian, since the bureau's Chief Monitor, who also handles Russian, was on leave throughout the month.

3. At the request of the State Department and the American Embassy in Valletta, Malta, the bureau began sampling the joint Libyan-Maltese Radio, Voice of the Mediterranean, from its first broadcasting day, 1 September. The station broadcasts from Malta for four hours a day in Arabic and English. The radio's Arabic program is now on daily coverage. Although most of the programming appears anodyne, scattered pro-Libyan comments prompted U.S. demarches to the Maltese Government.

4. The bureau has been backstop recording Libyan TV off Intelsat about four hours a day since 21 September while the BBC's primary satellite dish has been occupied with other commitments. The effort is mainly aimed at covering the Libyan Basic People's Congress for al-Qadhdhafi's expected appearance. The Congress is anticipated to last a few more weeks.

5. The bureau's Turkish contractor in northern Cyprus for the first time covered Ankara television to provide the text of two speeches by Turkish Prime Minister Ozal immediately before the Turkish referendum.

6. Cairo's Voice of the Arabs radio resumed broadcasting anti-al-Qadhdhafi commentaries with the return during the month of its "Voice of the Libyan People" program, which had been discontinued in March. The program has again been placed on coverage.

B. Lateral Services

1. The Nicosia Embassy's Regional Affairs office asked to receive the JPRS Terrorism publications, and the request was passed to Headquarters.

2. The bureau surveyed the host government Foreign Ministry and Public Information Office consumers who receive FBIS copy on Cyprus and Turkey via our pony line. They reconfirmed that their requirements are correctly stated and clarified that both consumers want material from Nicosia Turkish-language papers.

C. Technical

1. A Pitney-Bowes Model 8230 fax transceiver has been purchased and will soon be installed in the contract Turkish monitor's office in northern Nicosia to enable him to send and receive material to Tel Aviv, and through them, to the Nicosia Bureau. This should improve both bureau backstop capabilities for Turkish press coverage, allow occasional loadsharing, and speed up priority exchanges between the contract monitor and the bureau.

2. The bureau purchased four IBM PS/2 computer systems, Model 30-021, to serve as stand-alone units for administrative and support tasks.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Bureau Chief [] left for the bureau chiefs conference on 7 September and returned to the bureau on 25 September. STAT

2. Regional Engineer [] and family returned from home leave in the United States on 25 September. STAT

3. Senior teletype operator [] received a \$500 cash Special Achievement Award for his part in putting into operation a series of new communications software packages. STAT

4. Associate editor [] received a promotion to FBN-10. Earlier, Persian/Armenian senior monitor [] received a QSI. STAT

STAT

III. VISITS

1. Editor trainees [redacted] arrived on 2 September to begin their 3-month training TDY's.

STAT

STAT

2. Engineer [redacted] stopped over to visit the bureau 27-29 September en route to his new post in Tel Aviv.

STAT

[redacted]
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau